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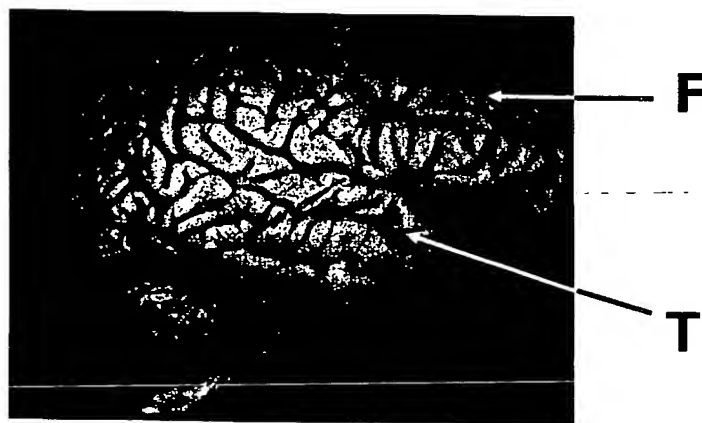
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EVOTEC NEUROSCIENCES GMBH** [DE/DE]; Schnackenburgallee 114, 22525 Hamburg (DE).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **HESTERKAMP, Thomas** [DE/DE]; Nordhäuser Weg 18, 22607 Hamburg (DE). **VON DER KAMMER, Heinz** [DE/DE]; Verbindungsstr. 6d, 22607 Hamburg (DE). **KRAPPA, Ralf** [DE/DE]; Rostocker Str. 12, 25436 Tornesch (DE). **POHLNER, Johannes** [DE/DE]; Quittenweg 11, 22175 Hamburg (DE).
- (74) Agents: **MEYERS, Hans-Wilhelm** et al.; Patent Attorneys, von Kreisler Selting Werner, P.O. Box 10 22 41, 50462 Cologne (DE).
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(54) Title: **DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USE OF STEROIDOGENIC ACUTE REGULATORY PROTEIN FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES**

Identification of genes involved in Alzheimer's Disease pathology



(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses the differential expression of the steroidogenic acute regulatory protein (StAR) gene in specific brain regions of Alzheimer's disease patients. Based on this finding, this invention provides a method for diagnosing or prognosticating a neurodegenerative disease, in particular Alzheimer's disease, in a subject, or for determining whether a subject is at increased risk of developing such a disease. Furthermore, this invention provides therapeutic and prophylactic methods for treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders using the StAR gene and gene products. A method of screening for modulating agents of neurodegenerative diseases is also disclosed.



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